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BOOK REVIEW

NONFICTION

IN LOVE & WAR: The Story of a Family's Ordeal and Sacrifice During the Vietnam Years. By Jim and Sybil Stockdale. (Harper & Row, \$18.95.) In alternating chapters, retired Vice Adm. Jim Stockdale, a prisoner in Hanoi from 1965 to 1973, and his wife, Sybil, provide a coherent double perspective that makes "In Love & War" a unique account of Vietnam War experiences. The book is fascinating as history, thriller and love story. Admiral Stockdale's eyewitness accounts contradict the official story behind the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, the Congressional action that gave President Lyndon Johnson war-making powers. As the senior American naval officer in Hanoi, Admiral Stockdale commanded his fellow captives to defy the North Vietnamese. He spent much of his eight years in solitary confinement, was subjected to prolonged and harrowing torture and later received the Medal of Honor. His wife describes her decision to cooperate with Naval Intelligence and to turn her correspondence with her husband into a dangerous cloak-and-dagger enterprise, complete with a secret message that appeared only when Admiral Stockdale immersed a photo she had sent him in liquid. Spurred by his secret messages about torture, she became the outspoken head of the League of Wives of American Vietnam Prisoners of War. While enduring callous indifference from many American officials, she also raised four sons, witnessed a social revolution and underwent a personal transformation. Both Stockdales are abundantly gifted with "the right stuff." Their revelations deserve attention.

— Kevin Buckley